

4/2/07

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE NO. 2
DATE 4-2-07
BILL NO. HB 276

Senate Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 422
Helena, MT 59620

RE: **Support House Bill 276**

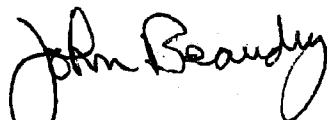
Honorable Chairman and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

Stillwater Mining Company would like to go on record in support of House Bill 276 for the following reasons.

- When a bill fails to be enacted during a legislative session, the intent of the Legislature is established on the issue.
- Subsequent petitions to appointed boards on the same issue ignore the intent established by the Legislature.
- Petitions requesting appointed boards to establish by administrative rule items that the Legislature decided not to enact into law has serious legal ramifications.
- Our recent experience indicates readdressing issues before appointed boards that have previously been decided by the Legislature is counterproductive, divisive and wasteful.

Stillwater Mining Company supports House Bill 276 to provide the authority to deny petitions submitted to the Board of Environmental Review that is substantially similar to legislation that failed to become law during a previous legislative session.

Sincerely,



John Beaudry
Public Affairs Manager
Stillwater Mining Company